

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-12 and 27 are pending in the application. Claims 10-11 are allowed. Claim 12 stands rejected. Claim 12 has been amended. Claim 27 has been canceled without prejudice. Entry of the amendment, reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of claim 12 is requested.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application and advance the case toward allowance, claim 12 has been amended. No new matter was added by the amendment. Claim 12 has been amended to specify that the immobilized affinity moiety comprises benzamidine. Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, paragraph [022] and page 19, paragraph [071].

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 12 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the claimed composition obtained by contacting a PRONASE protease preparation with immobilized benzamidine and then eluted therefrom with arginine, is allegedly not enabled for such compositions wherein each of the immobilized affinity moiety and the eluting moiety is selected from any of an amidine, a guanidine, and an amine containing species.

Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the immobilized affinity moiety comprises benzamidine. This amendment was made in order to place the claims into condition for allowance and must not be construed as an acquiescence in the rejection. Applicants believe that this amendment complies with the Examiner's suggestion and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn accordingly.

Appl. No. 10/006,223
Amdt. dated August 10, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

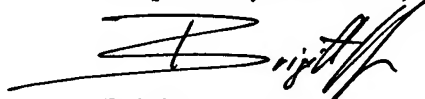
The rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koo *et al.* has been withdrawn in light of Applicants' previous amendment. The withdrawal of the rejection is gratefully acknowledged.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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